



*A child is sexually abused
in the United States
every two minutes.*

Source: Red Flag/Green Flag Resources

Our Mission

The CAC of Frederick County is a child-friendly facility designed, staffed and equipped to provide comprehensive and coordinated multidisciplinary services to child abuse victims and their families.

The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County

About the Child Advocacy Center

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Frederick County assists children who are victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. The CAC provides prevention, intervention and treatment to sexually and/or physically abused children ages 0 through 17 years and their non-offending family members through communication and cooperation with member agencies.



Child Advocacy Center Services

Our multidisciplinary approach reduces the number of interviews the child must experience. The staff works together to arrange mental health and other services for children and their families. The Child Advocacy Center provides the following services:

- ▶ A child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse interviews
- ▶ On-site medical examinations in a non-threatening environment
- ▶ Coordination of investigative, legal, medical and mental health services
- ▶ Information and referrals to other appropriate community agencies

Referrals To The CAC

The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County only receives referrals from the Frederick County Department of Social Services' Child Protective Services Division (CPS) or local law enforcement agencies.

What To Do If A Child Tells You S/He Has Been Abused

- ▶ Show that you are concerned, but remain calm. If you become emotional, the child may feel responsible for upsetting you and withdraw.
- ▶ Never blame the child for the abuse.
- ▶ Listen and receive the information in a non-judgmental way.
- ▶ Do not avoid talking about embarrassing subjects. Let the child know that everything can be talked about.
- ▶ Let the child know you believe and support her/him.
- ▶ Do not assume anything. Let the child tell about the abuse without filling in or guessing what s/he means.
- ▶ Tell the child you are glad s/he told you and that you will help her/him get help.
- ▶ Do not make promises that you cannot keep. For example, do not promise that you will not tell anyone else.



Take Action

Child Abuse Must Be
Reported and Addressed!



- ▶ In Maryland, any person who suspects that a child has been abused and/or neglected must make a report to Child Protective Services (CPS) or to the police. (Human services workers, law enforcement officers, health practitioners, and educators who suspect child abuse are held to even higher standards and failure to make a report can result in professional sanctions.)
- ▶ To make a child abuse report in Frederick County, call CPS at 301-694-2464, TTD 1-800-735-2258 Maryland Relay or call your local law enforcement agency.
- ▶ CPS will accept anonymous reports. However, individuals who make reports are encouraged to give their name and telephone number so that additional information can be taken at a later date, if necessary. If you provide your name, it is kept confidential.
- ▶ Confidentiality is a high priority when CPS does a child abuse investigation. However, they must balance the privacy of the family with the welfare of the child.
- ▶ CPS will take the report. They may then conduct an investigation and make a determination of whether or not abuse has occurred.



For more information about the
Child Advocacy Center
of Frederick County contact:

301-600-1758
301-600-3284 Fax
www.co.frederick.md.us/cac



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*This brochure was made possible by funds from the Maryland
Department of Human Resources, Office of Victim Services.*



**Child Advocacy Center
of Frederick County**